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WISDOM IS COMMON SENSE TO AN UNCOMMON DEGREE

THE REA LINEMAN

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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HIGH COST OF ACCIDENTS

During the summer of 1940, a lineman on an REA system put his minor son to work helping with line work. This was done with the full knowledge of the superintendent, but without the knowledge of the Board of Directors.

The lineman requested his son to climb a pole for repair work on a line which was believed not to be energized. The son received an electric shock severe enough so that artificial respiration was necessary. The son was revived and no report of the accident was made to anyone until approximately two weeks later. The superintendent made his report eventually, indicating that the minor had been employed by the cooperative for a period of six weeks as a lineman's helper without any permit on file, with the statement that "this happened not through carelessness or general unsafe practices, but because of the so-called 'human error.' At no time, either before or after this accident, have any safety rules been violated. This one time is the exception."

Shortly after this the lineman and his son were both released from employment from the cooperative and moved out of the city. The minor son started having serious trouble with his eyesight and the insurance carrier sent him to an eye specialist. It developed that he has permanent disability equal to 25 percent loss of vision of both eyes. Three years after this happened, the Industrial Commission approved a settlement allowing compensation to the son for a total of 275 weeks at \$21.00 per week, or a total of \$5,775. This sum has been paid by the insurance carrier. The Commission further stated that "because the injured was a minor engaged in prohibitive employment, treble compensation becomes payable, of which the employer's share is \$14,013.30. As the employee's injury occurred because of a further violation of safety regulations, 15 percent increased compensation becomes payable in the sum of \$1,051, or a total amount payable by the employer of \$15,064.30.

This was an expensive accident for the cooperative. There are many lessons in it and not the least of these is the question of violation of the Child Labor Laws and the employment of relatives. In these times of manpower shortage there should be no temptation to employ high school students or others to do work which may expose them to the hazards of energized lines or the hazards of tree trimming and construction work. This is not child's play.

BEGINNING 7TH YEAR WITHOUT A LOST-TIME ACCIDENT

Denton County Electric Cooperative, Inc., Denton, Texas, is entering the seventh year on the project without a lost-time accident. That is a perfect record.

The manager, Osie Cauble, says: "...I am sure that this good record is due only to the constant safety program that we have used in connection with the operation of our project, and since the organization of the Safety and Job Training program, it has been much easier for us to carry on our safety work with the assistance of the job training information given us by the field men working for this program."

Congratulations for a job well done!

A record of this sort is the result of training in the past. A safety program in one or several years will sometimes carry through over a period of one or more years. It is gratifying to see this cooperative carry on where some might say, "We don't need any safety training—we have a perfect record."

PREVENT CASUALTIES

ON THE HOME FRONT

Texas must be keeping Head Instructor Ed Nauert and Instructors D. L. Pierce and E. S. Reynolds on the go. No word has come for some time.

Oklahoma continues with Supervisor Joe Billingsley giving demonstrations and instruction throughout the state.

Iowa is initiating a series of two-day Job Analysis and Training Conferences among the state cooperatives under Safety Supervisor Earl F. Ehlers. It is planned that a total of 12 persons take active part in each conference although the welcome sign is out to all who wish to attend.

Wisconsin is considering a brief, intensive training course to better qualify men of no experience in order to relieve the severe shortage of personnel. Member cooperatives may send trainees to some central point for instruction under Supervisor H. C. Potthast.

Michigan continues with Supervisor Lawrence C. Meyer to avoid the mistakes which cause disabling accidents. Conscientious effort and not a magic formula does the job.

Ohio is reviewing qualifications of applicants and searching for additional applicants to make the best possible choice when Supervisor Dean Horsewood must leave his civilian duties.

Kentucky Safety and Job Training Committee held an interesting meeting on February 11. Authorization to obtain full services of the National Safety Council and to procure hectograph equipment were approved. A three-man committee was appointed to arrange for no-accident-award pins for Kentucky REA linemen.

The tentatively announced date on which to hold a National REA Safety and Job Training Conference has had to be changed. It has just been too difficult to keep up with the quick changes and the rapid developments of the status of Safety and Job Training Programs in the various states.

Several states have just initiated programs and the supervisors have not yet assumed their duties, but are expected to do so soon. One state must obtain a qualified safety supervisor to resume and another to begin. Two state safety supervisors may be drafted at any time. All this wouldn't be so bothersome if all interested parties could be notified by phone to meet tomorrow or next week. Such is not the case and at least a month's notice must be given; two months is preferable in some cases.

In view of present circumstances, a REA Safety and Job Training Conference cannot be held profitably before fall. By taking sufficient time to plan properly, the greatest benefit can be derived.

ACCIDENT FREQUENCY ON REA SYSTEMS - 2nd MONTH 1944		
(Disabling injuries per 10,000 Miles of Energized Lines)		
REGION	THIS YEAR	LAST YEAR
I	1.1*	0.0
II	0.3	0.5
III	0.0	0.4
IV	0.2	0.0
V	0.5	0.0
VI	1.8	0.0
VII	0.4	0.7
VIII	0.4*	0.2
IX	1.3	0.0
X	0.5	0.0
U.S.	0.6	0.3

* - One Fatality

There's a
SAFE AND UNSAFE WAY
OF
DOING EVERY JOB

Mississippi's program is delayed because of a War Manpower Commission ruling which prohibits Instructor E. H. Stovall from beginning his duties before March 15.

Illinois has not confirmed the rumor that they had employed a man as supervisor.

Louisiana continues the search for qualified applicants.

North Carolina REA Safety and Job Training Advisory Committee in collaboration with George W. Coggins, State Director of Trade and Vocational Education, prepared a budget and employed C. H. Lackey as Supervisor. Lackey is to assume his new duties on April 1.

Virginia, too, obtained an instructor, O. L. Heath, to begin April 1. Heath has 23 years of experience in line construction and operations and is familiar by actual use of all line devices and equipment.

Alabama had Instructor William L. DeVaughan begin his duties on January 1. The latest word was that DeVaughan was as busy as could be with preliminary plans and preparation.

Tennessee is busy initiating their program under Supervisor C. G. Alexander.